



# Marshal Matters

## February 2021 Edition

Marshal's Minute.....	2
Employee Spotlight.....	3
OSFM Celebrated Black History Month.....	4-5
National Burn Awareness Week.....	6-7
IFSA Virtual Burn Survivor Group.....	8
"Be Alarmed" 2020 Statistics.....	9-11
Daylight Saving Time Begins.....	12
IDNR Volunteer Fire Grant Program.....	13
Older Adult Fire Safety.....	14-16

Grain Bin Safety Week.....	17
NFIRS Week.....	18
IFSI Minute.....	19-20
Portable Heater Safety.....	21
QFO School Inspector Online Class.....	22
QFO April School Inspector Online Class.....	23
Kudos/Shout Outs.....	24
Kids' Corner.....	25

**Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez**

February was a cold and snowy month across Illinois. An alarming number of home fires were caused by space/portable heaters, and a couple of those fires unfortunately turned deadly. Chilly weather will linger for a couple more months and if you need to use an alternative heating source to stay warm, make sure to follow all manufacturer recommendations and keep fire safety in mind. We see this headline far too often, “Fire Officials says the home or apartment didn’t appear to have working smoke alarms.” Reach out to your local fire department to see if they are participating in the OSFM’s Be Alarmed Program or if they have a program that helps community members replace broken or expired smoke alarms. I can’t stress enough the importance of having a working smoke alarm in your home. Smoke alarms save lives!

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 AM. This serves as a reminder to check, test and replace smoke alarms in your homes. The “Be Alarmed” program found that in 2020, over 80% of pre-existing smoke alarms in homes that received new smoke alarms were non-functional or expired. Spend a few extra minutes when changing your clock to test all smoke alarms in your home. This would also serve as a great time to hold a family meeting and go through your fire escape plan. Make sure everyone knows where the exits are out of every room and the home. Designate a meeting place outside of the home where everyone can meet if you must evacuate your home. Hold a fire drill so that in case of an emergency, everyone is prepared in the home.

Due to leveling COVID numbers, reports sent out from the OSFM regarding COVID numbers in the fire service will be updated weekly on Wednesdays. Tracking of this information is very important, so please continue to send in any quarantines and positive reports. We are making progress against this virus, but we can’t let our guard down now. Keep fighting! Vaccine distribution continues, so please contact your resource hospital or local health department to arrange vaccinations for your IDPH-licensed firefighters/paramedics, who are included with health care workers and long-term care facilities in Phase 1a. Also, you can begin to address your other firefighters who will be included in Phase 1b. I mentioned this in last month’s newsletter, but I wanted to share it again: the State of Illinois’ coronavirus website has been updated to include host vaccination locations, vaccination appointment information, FAQs, and updates on the vaccination plan. The website can be found by visiting: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov>.

The OSFM continues to remain committed to the Illinois fire service community during and after the pandemic. We will get through this together, One Team One Fight!



**Employee Spotlight**

## Milly Morales

### Storage Tank Safety Specialist

**Where are you originally from?** I was born in Philly and raised in New York, left for 11 years to be in the Marine Corps, then planted my feet here in Illinois.

**Tell us about your family? Kids, Significant other.....**My Husband Paul is a Commercial Driver for Waste Management, he and I have 7 kids and on January 18th, 2021 welcomed our 10th grandbaby. "Little Milly" has evened things out to 5 girls and 5 boys ranging from newborns to 16 years old. Yikes! I've aged myself.

**Favorite food(s)?** I love seafood, specifically king crab, lobster, scallops, if they were less expensive, I'm pretty sure I could sustain myself on just seafood. I also love cheese pizza, preferably New York style.

**Hobbies?** I love the outdoors and enjoy fishing and camping, although the Marine Corps ruined traditional tent camping for me, we now camp in the comfort of a cabin. I also really love to treasure hunt for antiques, all kinds, coins, art, stamps, bronzes, just about anything that I can barter down to a fraction of the cost, then resell it. Of course, not everything gets sold, I also collect and upgrade my collection.

**What's your favorite movie or book?** I like a lot of movies, but "The Green Mile" "Fight Club" "The Usual Suspects" all stand out. I am not much of a reader anymore, when I did read a lot, I enjoyed reading horror stories by Stephen King and Clive Barker, and suspense thrillers by John Grisham or James Patterson.

**When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers?** Well this kind of depends on who is getting in the car with me, but if it is just me and my husband then it would be Rock music.

**What did you want to be when you were a kid?** I wanted to be a Marine, mission accomplished.

**What's your favorite part of the job?** Well I would have to say that it is the daily interaction with different people from all walks of life. Every site visit is a new adventure, with some better than others.

**What's something unique about you?** Not sure it's totally unique, but I'm pretty good with people, I've been told I have great people skills by previous employers. If that is not unique enough, then I can also cross just one eye 😊

**Where is your favorite place to vacation?** I don't have a favorite, if there is water nearby, I'm happy.

**Where is your bucket list destination(s)?** Spain, Italy and Greece

**OSFM Celebrates Black History Month**

The OSFM Celebrates Black History Month



*The OSFM is celebrating Black History Month. We have visited with a few individuals to talk about the importance of diversity in the fire service. Click on the videos posted here to learn about their thoughts and what inspired them to enter the fire service and other careers.*



*The OSFM sat down with Chicago Fire Department Commissioner Richard C. Ford II as he talks about his career and the importance of diversity in the fire service. He also talks about how mentors can help provide guidance throughout your entire career.*

<https://youtu.be/qzaqt7s9EpA>



*The OSFM sat down with Quincy Fire Department Deputy Chief Demond Dade to learn more about the importance of diversity in the fire service. Chief Dade also talked about his story and how he came to be a member of the fire service.*

<https://youtu.be/CdTjWnsDR5M>

## OSFM Celebrates Black History Month

*The OSFM sat down with Champaign Fire Department Firefighter Eddie Shellman to learn about his journey to the fire service. He talks about never giving up and the importance of diversity in the fire service.*

<https://youtu.be/57n9wK5aV4Y>



*The OSFM's Deputy Director Alix Armstead shares his unique journey on how he came to the agency and his current position. He breaks down the importance of diversity and why it is so important that all agencies, fire service organizations, and everyone understands what it means and why it's so important to be so inclusive.*

<https://youtu.be/YmBkwJkq0NU>

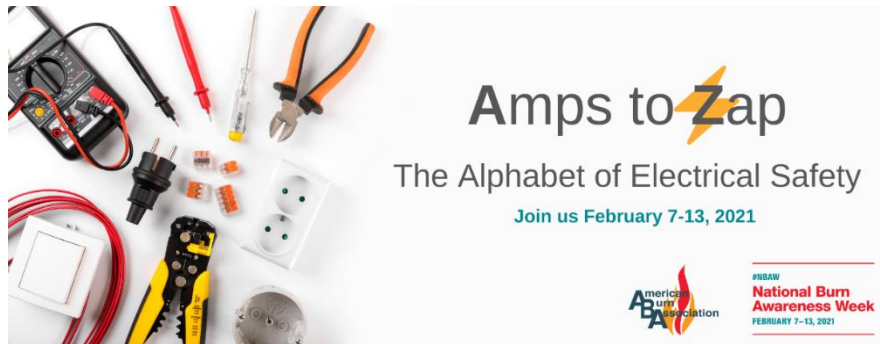


The OSFM Celebrates Black History Month

  
**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**  




## National Burn Awareness Week



National Burn Awareness Week is an initiative of the American Burn Association and is a coming together of burn, fire and life safety educators to make the public aware of the frequency, devastation and causes of burn injury. The week introduces consistent and authoritative measures to prevent these injuries and how-to best care for those that are injured.

The theme for National Burn Awareness Week 2021, "Electrical Safety from Amps to Zap!", highlights a common risk of injury that exists from unprotected electrical outlets, improperly used extension cords, lightning, and workplace electrical injuries. Annually, in the United States, approximately 400,000 people receive medical care for treatment of burn injuries. In 2018 alone, there were 3,655 deaths from fire and smoke inhalation and another 40,000 people were treated in hospitals for burn related injuries.

"It's important to do a risk assessment around your home and cover all electrical outlets reducing the risk of accidental electrocution. Create a three-foot kid-free zone around your stove or oven when cooking, turn pot/pan handles around when cooking, use rear burners if possible, place hot liquids in the middle of a table and out of the reach of children and make sure to wear shoes when walking on pavement during hot summer months. Taking a few simple steps can help to reduce the risk for injury or burn injuries from occurring, along with the physical and mental scares the come from those burn injuries," said Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), most "fire-related injuries" are burns. In fact, approximately every 60 seconds someone in the U.S. sustains a burn injury serious enough to require treatment. The primary causes of injury include fire-flame, scalds, contact with hot objects, electrical and chemicals. Most of the injuries occur in the home. Today, 96.8% of those who suffer burn injuries will survive. Unfortunately, many of those survivors will sustain serious scarring, life-long physical disabilities, and adjustment difficulties.

To learn more visit: <http://ameriburn.org/prevention/burn-awareness-week/>

#NBAW

**National Burn  
Awareness Week**

**FEBRUARY 7-13, 2021**



WWW.SFM.ILLINOIS.GOV/



## National Burn Awareness Week

# Scald Prevention Safety Tips

A scald injury can happen at any age. Children, older adults and people with disabilities are especially at risk. Hot liquids from bath water, hot coffee and even microwaved soup can cause devastating injuries. Scald burns are the second leading cause of all burn injuries.

### Scald Safety

- Teach children that hot things can burn. Install anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads.
- Always supervise a child in or near a bathtub.
- Test the water at the faucet. It should be less than 100° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius).
- Before placing a child in the bath or getting in the bath yourself, test the water.
- Test the water by moving your hand, wrist and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.
- Place hot liquids and food in the center of a table or toward the back of a counter.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Open microwaved food slowly, away from the face.
- Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.
- Allow microwaved food to cool before eating.
- Choose prepackaged soups whose containers have a wide base or, to avoid the possibility of a spill, pour the soup into a traditional bowl after heating.

### Burn Rx

Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3–5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.

### FACT!

Prepackaged **microwavable soups** are a frequent cause of scald burn injuries (especially noodle soups) because they can easily tip over, pouring hot liquid (and noodles) on the person.



Greenhalgh DG, Bridges P, Coombs E, et al.  
Instant cup of soup: design flaws increase risk of burns.  
Journal of Burn Care and Research, July–August 2006; 27(4):476-81



**NATIONAL FIRE  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource  
on fire, electrical and related hazards



[nfpa.org/education](http://nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2018

## IFSA Virtual Burn Survivor Support Group

**VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP**

All sessions held on Zoom, join from anywhere!

Connect with other burn survivors, friends, and caregivers

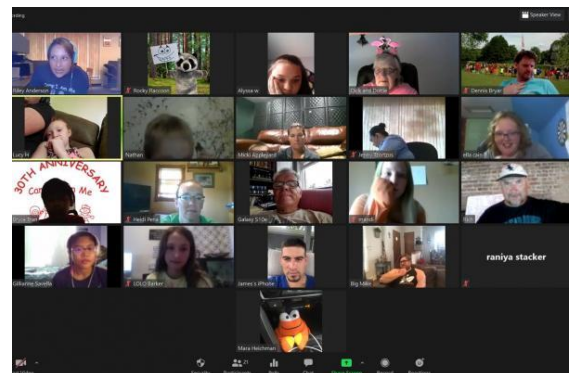
Questions? Reach out to Riley Anderson: [randerson@ifsa.org](mailto:randerson@ifsa.org) or 847-390-0911

**2021 Adult Meeting Schedule:**  
03/10, 05/12, 07/14, 09/08, 11/10

**2021 Youth Meeting Schedule:**  
04/14, 06/09, 08/11, 10/13, 12/08

Camp I Am Me

*"The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance is excited to announce the launch of its newest program to assist burn survivors across the state – the Virtual Burn Survivor Support Program. The online program will be made available monthly and will be provided to both younger and older burn survivors, as well as caregivers. Each session will have a different topic or activity which revolves around burn injuries, whether it be physical or emotional healing. The program will create a safe and accepting environment for everyone participating while providing a comfortable setting for participants to feel comfortable in sharing their burn and recovery related experiences," said Executive Director Philip Zaleski.*



**VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP**

All sessions held on Zoom, join from anywhere!

Connect with other burn survivors, friends, and caregivers

**Meeting Second Wednesday Bi-Monthly**  
Adults - odd months  
Youth - even months

Camp I Am Me

*Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Executive Director Philip Zaleski talks about a new virtual support group for burn survivors.*

<https://youtu.be/YMaZrvv-dG8>

To learn more visit: [www.ifsa.org](http://www.ifsa.org)



**Be Alarmed 2020 Stats**

# 2020 REPORT

Launched in 2018, "Be Alarmed!" was created as a fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program administered cooperatively between the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The program continues to distribute fire safety education materials and 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms to fire departments in the state of Illinois. The fire departments then deliver the education and install smoke alarms in at-risk homes within their communities. Both the educational materials and smoke alarms are provided to fire departments at no cost as a result of funding from both the IFSA and OSFM.



The program was developed to educate Illinois residents on the dangers of residential fires and how to prevent fires from occurring in the home, as well as to ensure there are properly installed, working smoke alarms in the homes. By providing 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms, it ensures that the power source cannot be removed from the unit and, if properly maintained, will last the life of the device.

The program seeks to educate Illinois residents, young and old, on home fire safety and prevention methods, reduce the number of fire-related injuries in Illinois, reduce the number of fire-related deaths in Illinois, and identify the reason for non-working smoke alarms in Illinois homes.

#### 2020 Recorded Data:

- ♦ 185 active Illinois fire departments from 61 different counties participating in the program
- ♦ 2,232 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- ♦ \$44,640 worth of life-saving smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- ♦ 1,655 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms installed in Illinois homes
- ♦ 597 Illinois homes now protected with new smoke alarms
- ♦ 1,376 (803 high-risk) Illinois residents educated on smoke alarm maintenance, home fire safety, and home fire escape plans as well as protected by new smoke alarms
- ♦ 80% of pre-existing smoke alarms in homes that received new 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms were non-functional or were expired (943 of 1,175 pre-existing alarms)



## Be Alarmed 2020 Stats

### Fire Department Testimonials

*"It has drastically helped our district because we are a poor rural district with the majority of our district low income. This has been a huge benefit to them and the elderly as well. The firefighters being the ones that put them up, we can guarantee, the smoke alarms are being put in the correct location and they have enough coverage for their home. The majority of people we have helped didn't have their existing alarms in the right location nor did they have enough coverage. This increased coverage, and correct locations will save lives! In total for our district, we have installed close to 200 fire alarms with the majority coming through this program. I have been Fire Chief for the last five years and that was one of my main goals was to get the community safer than it was when I started. Thanks to the 'Be Alarmed' Program we have been able to do just that. I would highly recommend the program to every fire department in the State of Illinois! This program leads to safer communities, less fire related deaths, the knowledge of the importance of escape plans.*

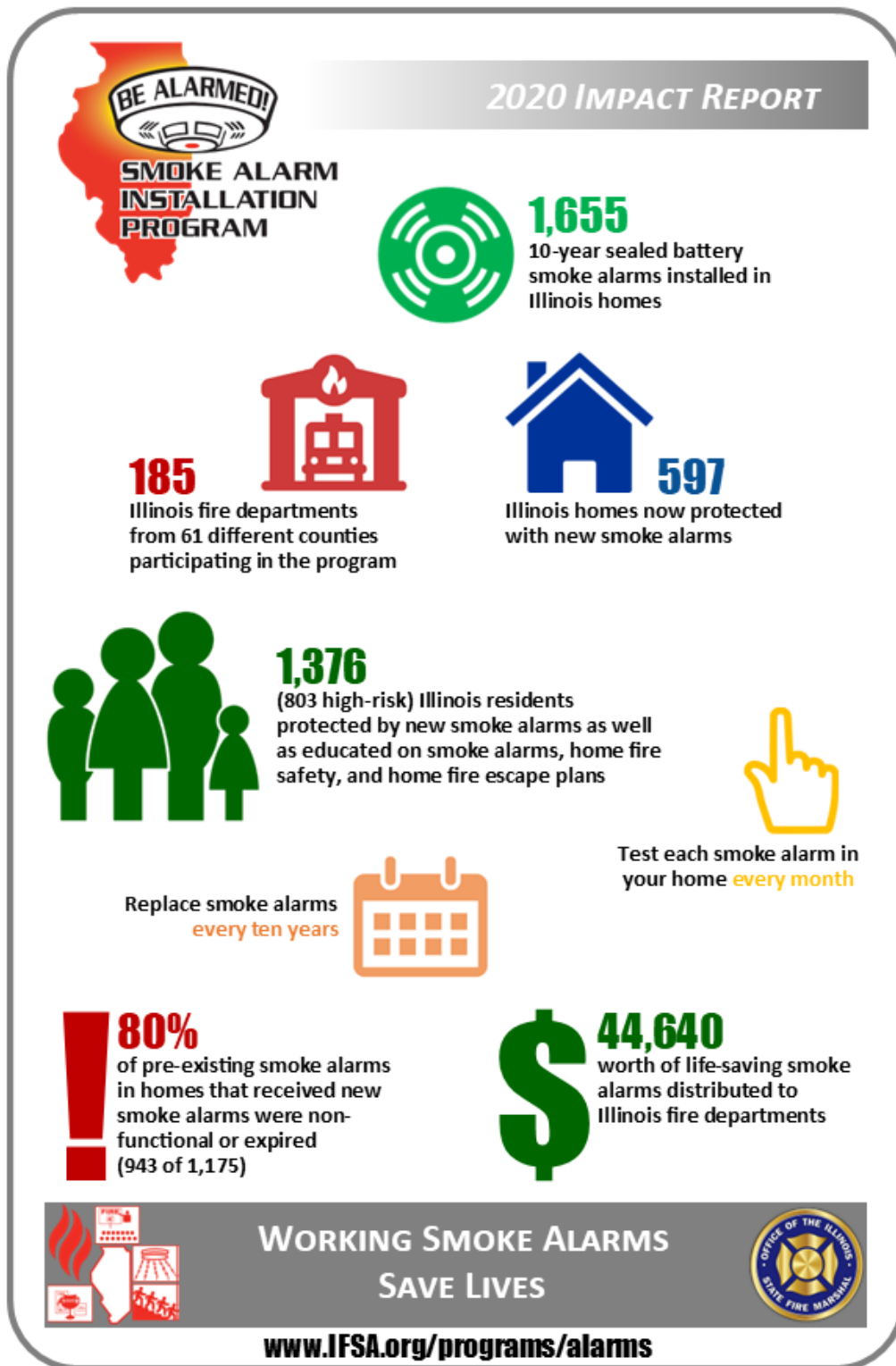
*"A department our size would never be able to afford the amount of detectors that your program has furnished for installation. We have installed 792 detectors in 157 homes. This has allowed us to get into these homes to help with fire escape planning, and fire safety in the home. We have been able to talk to young and old about what to do during a fire, and what to expect when we get there. We have been able to hand out the literature that you have provided to each home. This has been a valuable tool in our residential fire prevention efforts. We still have a list of installs, and calls coming in."*

*"We were shocked by how many homes did not have even one working smoke detector when we arrived. Additionally, this opened the door to a conversation about fire safety, fire prevention, and even the services we provide to the community. I look forward to a continued partnership with your program. We have installed almost 100 alarms and I will not be satisfied until we have at least one of your alarms in every home in our community."*

*"I want to thank you for providing this program for our fire district. We have installed over 200 detectors in our rural fire district and are hoping that this program will continue in 2020. We have been thanked repeatedly by the residents of our fire district for this program. It is reassuring to know that we are helping some of our fire district residents and that if there was a fire, they have working smoke detectors."*

*"Thank you for the opportunity to be a partner in the 'Be Alarmed' program. Response from the citizens we serve has been positive - both from contact on the village's website, and word of mouth. We are definitely finding this program to be very beneficial, especially with our elderly population, who find it difficult to maintain adequate, up-to-date fire protection in their dwellings. People are pleasantly surprised that there is no cost for the detectors, and eagerly invite the members of our department into their homes, where a positive interaction takes place. A win-win for everyone!"*



**Be Alarmed 2020 Stats**



## Daylight Saving Time Begins



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 AM. This serves as a bi-annual reminder to test all smoke and CO alarms in your home. If you find an alarm that is not working or is expired, replace it with a new 10-year sealed battery type of alarm. Review your fire-escape plan with your family and hold a drill to practice your plan.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that between 2012-2016, almost three out of every five home fire deaths in the U.S. resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms. The chances of dying in a home fire was reduced by 54% in homes where working smoke alarms are present. In fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, more than two of every five of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries. Dead batteries accounted for 25% of smoke alarm failures. In 2020 in Illinois, 80% of pre-existing smoke alarms being replaced in homes that received the new 10-year sealed battery alarms through the "Be Alarmed!" program was found to be non-functional or were expired.

A 2017 Illinois law requires ten-year sealed smoke alarms be installed in all homes built before 1988 or that do not have hardwired smoke detectors by January 1, 2023.

For more information on the "Be Alarmed!" program visit <https://www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms>.



## Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program



*The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry announces the Volunteer Fire Grant Assistance Program. Deadline for application submission is April 30, 2021 by 4 PM CST.*

*Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program provides grants to volunteer fire departments for training or equipment purchases for Illinois communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. The types of projects that have been funded in previous grants include radios, hose, SCBA, turn out gear, wildland PPE, hand tools, chainsaws, backpack blowers, modifying federal excess vehicles and equipment and other equipment.*

*Click here the link to learn more about eligibility requirements or to find the application.*

*<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/Forestry/Pages/VolunteerFireAssistanceProgram.aspx>*





## Older Adult Fire Safety

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and the Illinois Department of Aging (IDoA) are encouraging older Illinoisans to keep fire safety a top priority. Some seniors have decreased sight, hearing and restricted mobility, needs that should be considered when creating a fire escape plan. In 2019, out of the 110 fire deaths in Illinois, 47.6 percent of those deaths were people over the age of 60. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), older adults face the greatest relative risk of dying in a fire. In 2018, older adults represented 16 percent of the United States population but suffered 42 percent of all fire deaths. Those who are 85 and older were 3.8 times more likely to die in a fire than the total population.

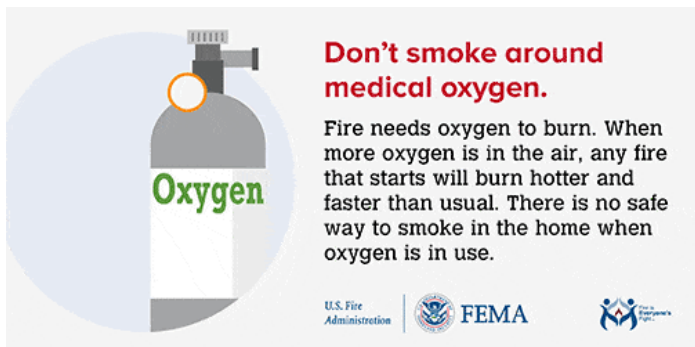
"As the population of older adults increases, it's essential to take the necessary steps to stay safe. People 65 and older, are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires compared to the population at large. Speak with building managers and/or your family to ensure smoke/CO alarms are working properly. Check on elderly neighbors and encourage them to talk about their fire escape plans. Practice your escape plan to see if you can execute your plan and time it takes to escape. Keep a telephone nearby, along with emergency phone numbers so that you can communicate with emergency personnel if you're trapped in your room by fire or smoke," said Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez.

"In addition to discussing and creating an escape plan with your loved ones, the Illinois Department on Aging offers an Emergency Home Response Service (EHRS) - available to individuals over the age of 60 who meet eligibility requirements. EHRS provides an extra level of protection and peace of mind," said Paula Basta, Director of IDoA. "Our Emergency Home Response Service is a 24-hour, two-way voice communication system that, when activated, links to assistance outside the home. Once you press the button, help will be on its way in any home emergency." For more information on our Emergency Home Response Service, call our **Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966** or send an email to [aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov](mailto:aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov).

An alarming trend has been noted by fire departments in Illinois and across the nation of accidents involving people who depend on oxygen. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that 89 percent of deaths related to fire and home oxygen use are caused by smoking. Never smoke or allow someone to smoke around oxygen tanks. Post NO SMOKING signs in every room of your home. Keep oxygen containers at least 5-10 feet away from any heat source. Store oxygen canisters safely and securely in the upright position, away from any type of heat source in an approved oxygen storage cart.

Keep these tips in mind to create a fire safe home:

- Know two ways out of every room. Practice using both ways.
- Remove any items that may block your way out of the room or your home.
- Discuss your fire escape plan with family and neighbors. Contact your building manager or fire department to discuss your plan if you need extra help escaping.
- Keep eyeglasses, keys, hearing aids and a phone within reach next to your bed.
- Practice your home fire escape drill twice a year.



WWW.SFM.ILLINOIS.GOV/



## Older Adult Fire Safety

### Fire Safety Checklist for Caregivers of Older Adults

Older adults are more likely to die in home fires because they may move slower or have trouble hearing the smoke alarm. Make sure the people you know are prepared and safe.



**Put a check in front of each statement that is true for your home.**

#### Smoke Alarms

- ☐ Smoke alarms are on every level of the home.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are inside and outside sleeping areas.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- ☐ Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.
- ☐ People can hear smoke alarms from any room.



#### Can everyone hear the alarm?

If not, consider another type of smoke alarm – like one that has a different sound or one that comes with a bed shaker or strobe light.

#### Cooking Safety

- ☐ The cooking area has no items that can burn.
- ☐ People stay in the kitchen when they are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.

#### Smoking Safety

If they smoke, make sure they are a fire-safe smoker:

- ☐ People only smoke outside and never in bed.
- ☐ People put cigarettes out safely in an ashtray with a wide base that will not tip over.
- ☐ People never smoke around medical oxygen.

#### Heating Safety

- ☐ Space heaters are least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- ☐ People blow out candles before leaving the room.

#### Escape Plan

- ☐ There is a fire escape plan that shows 2 ways out of every room.
- ☐ Exits are always clear and not blocked with furniture or other items.
- ☐ Everyone knows where the safe meeting place is outside the home.
- ☐ The escape plan works for everyone, including people who use a wheelchair, a hearing aid, or glasses.
- ☐ There is a phone near the bed to call a local emergency number in case of a fire.



#### Can everyone get out?

Make sure people who use a wheelchair or a cane can get to them and get out quickly. Tell them to keep glasses or hearing aids next to the bed.

#### Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

#### Electrical and Appliance Safety

- ☐ No electrical cords run under rugs.
- ☐ All electrical cords are in good condition and not broken or cut.
- ☐ People clean the dryer of lint after every use.
- ☐ All plug outlets are safe and do not feel warm when you touch them. (If they are warm, call the landlord or an electrician.)

Learn more about fire prevention:  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

U.S. Fire  
Administration



FEMA



## Older Adult Fire Safety

### Prevent home fires. Protect what matters.

Older adults are more likely to die in home fires. They may move more slowly or have trouble hearing a smoke alarm because of hearing loss.



#### Protect

Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from things that can burn. Heaters can cause fires if they are too close to furniture, beds, curtains, or other materials that can burn. Turn space heaters off before you leave the home.

### Prevenga incendios. Proteja lo importante.

Los adultos mayores tienen más probabilidad de morir en incendios en el hogar. Los adultos mayores se mueven más lento o tienen problemas escuchando los detectores de humo.



#### Protégase

Mantenga los calefactores a 3 pies como mínimo de elementos que podrían incendiarse, como las camas, muebles, cortinas u otros materiales que puedan incendiarse. Apague los calefactores antes de salir de la casa.



#### Prepare

Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home. You should have a smoke alarm inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test to make sure the sound of the alarm is loud enough to wake you.



#### Prepárese

Mantenga los detectores de humo funcionando en cada nivel de su hogar. Debe tener un detector de humo dentro y fuera de cada dormitorio. Compruebe que el sonido del detector se encuentra lo suficientemente alto como para despertarlo.



#### Plan

Make an escape plan around your abilities. If you need to use a wheelchair or cane, make sure you can get to them quickly. Keep glasses or hearing aids next to the bed.



#### Planifíquese

Cree un plan de escape dentro de sus capacidades. Si necesita una silla de ruedas o un bastón, asegúrese de que pueda alcanzarlos lo más rápido posible. Mantenga los espejuelos o auxiliares auditivos cerca de la cama.

Learn more about fire prevention: [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

Aprenda más sobre la prevención de incendios en: [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)



## Grain Bin Safety Week



Rural fire fighters are often the first and only line of defense when someone becomes helplessly trapped in grain. Unfortunately, many fire departments lack the specialized rescue techniques and equipment necessary for a successful grain bin rescue.

To enter, describe how your local fire department or emergency rescue team and community would benefit from grain entrapment training and a rescue tube, and how the tube and training could be shared with nearby departments.

<https://www.nationwide.com/lc/resources/farm-and-agribusiness/articles/grain-bin-safety-week>



**OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal and the Illinois Department of Agriculture want Illinois farmers to set aside time to recognize Grain Bin Safety Week, February 21-27.

Based on Purdue University's 2019 Summary of U.S. Agricultural Confined Space-Related Injuries and Fatalities report, the U.S. had a five-year average of 58 agricultural confined space related injury and fatality (ACSRIF) cases documented. In 2019, there were 67 (38 of 67 were grain entrapments) U.S. ACSRIF cases documented. Illinois contributed four ACSRIF documented cases in 2019 and five cases in 2018.

"It's easy to become complacent when workers have been in and out of bins for years and never had any problems," said IDOA Acting Director, Jerry Costello II. "People often think they are big enough, strong enough, or fast enough to get out of flowing grain. All too often, problems can snowball out of control quickly. That's why it's important to set aside time to go over safety measures, so our farmers are prepared in case of a grain bin emergency."

"Fire departments and districts continue to train so that in the event they must respond to a grain emergency they are ready to aid and assist," said State Fire Marshal Matt Perez. "It's important that there are always at least two people working around a grain bin so in case of an emergency a call for assistance can be made quickly. Don't take any unnecessary risks, always think safety first."

Farm workers should attend required safety training as a reminder to utilize the best practices while working in and around grain bins. In addition to required training there are several online training resources available:

- The Grain and Feed Association of Illinois at: [www.gfai.org](http://www.gfai.org)
- The Grain Handling and Safety Council at: [www.grainsafety.org](http://www.grainsafety.org)
- University of Illinois Extension at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/agsafety/equipment/grainbinsafety.cfm>



## NFIRS Week



*The USFA in partnership with the International Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) hosted the first annual NFIRS Week focusing on data and how to use, plan and compare your data with national trends.*

*The five-day webinar series "It's Your Data to Use" theme will feature a different topic each day. A few examples include the first ever COVID special study Information (as of January 1, 2021 the study collected 4,009,708 responses); and information on how states use NFIRS data and submit it to the system. If you missed any of these webinars, they will be available on the IAFC's website: <https://www.iafc.org/>*

*It's important to check to see if your department or district is current with NFIRS reports. You can find the latest compliance list at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/SFMDocuments/Documents/NFIRSComplianceReport.pdf>*

*NFIRS can be difficult to navigate and can prompt many questions for departments/districts. The OSFM is here to help! If you have questions you need answered email [sfm.nfirshelp@illinois.gov](mailto:sfm.nfirshelp@illinois.gov). The OSFM staff will reply with some helpful hints or other suggestions to solve your issue.*

## National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

## IFSI Minute

### AN UPDATE FROM THE ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE



It is a busy time of year for the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) as the Spring 2021 training season is now in full swing. On 1 March, we welcomed thirty-eight students representing twenty-three departments to the State Fire Academy. Over the course of seven weeks, the candidates will complete essential, hands-on training designed to give new firefighters the practical and cognitive skills needed to operate safely and effectively on the fireground. In addition to this resident Academy program, the IFSI team continues to deliver the Basic Operations Firefighter Blended program at four regional training locations across the state. This blended training effort will wrap up in early May.

#### UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

IFSI is offering a full schedule of classes in March, April and May, including many no cost training opportunities. Limited seats are still available in the following courses:

Structural Collapse Operations – March 15-19/Champaign  
Confined Space Rescue Operations – April 5-9/ Quincy  
Hazardous Materials Operations – April 17-21/South Pekin  
Trench Rescue Operations – April 20-23/Wilmington  
Rope Rescue Operations – April 23-25 & April 30-May 2/Alton  
Hazardous Materials Operations – April 26-30/Calumet City  
Leadership Development and Decision Making (Firefighter Level) – May 10-14/Oak Forest  
Confined Space Rescue Operations – May 10-14/Champaign  
Rope Rescue Technician – May 10-14 & 17-21/Quincy  
Responder Intervention Rescue Technician (RIT) – May 17-21/Champaign

#### SAVE THE DATE:

The poster for the 2021 Fire College features a dark background with a large, bold "2021" in white. To the right of "2021" is the text "JUNE 3 - 6 | CHAMPAIGN" and "JUNE 5 - 6 | SWANSEA &amp; CHERRY VALLEY". Below "2021" is the text "FIRE COLLEGE" in large, bold, white letters. To the left of "FIRE COLLEGE" is the text "2021 ANNUAL" in small, white letters. Below "FIRE COLLEGE" is the text "ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE - UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN" in small, white letters. Below that is the text "Complete event details and course listings will be posted early March." and "Registration opens in April." in small, white letters. At the bottom is the text "FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU" in large, bold, white letters. Below that are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. On the right side of the poster is a photograph of two firefighters in full gear, including helmets and oxygen tanks, standing in front of a large fire. The firefighters are wearing "MESA" and "CHERRY VALLEY" on their gear. The IFSI badge is also visible on the poster.

## IFSI Minute



We are looking forward to the robust summer special event schedule.

### NEW COURSES – INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

On 25 February, IFSI delivered a training demonstration of two new courses for the Illinois Terrorism Taskforce (ITTF) Focus Group for Training and Education Policy Development. IFSI provided a

comprehensive overview of the Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM) - Basic and School Safety and Violent Event Incident Management (SSSVEIM) courses for attendees. The courses are now available for delivery as part of the Incident Management Program. Contact IFSI Assistant Director, JP Moore at [jpmoore1@illinois.edu](mailto:jpmoore1@illinois.edu) for more information.



We continue to be grateful for your support in the fulfillment of our mission.



## Portable Heater Safety



When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

### HEATER CHECKLIST

- » Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- » Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people.
- » Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- » Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- » Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- » Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- » Keep children away from the space heater.
- » Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- » Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

### Types of electric space heaters

**Oil or water-filled radiator**  
Heated oil or water travels through the heater.

**Fan-forced heater**  
A fan blows warm air over metal coils.

**Ceramic heater**  
Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.

**Infrared heaters**  
Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

### Fact

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.

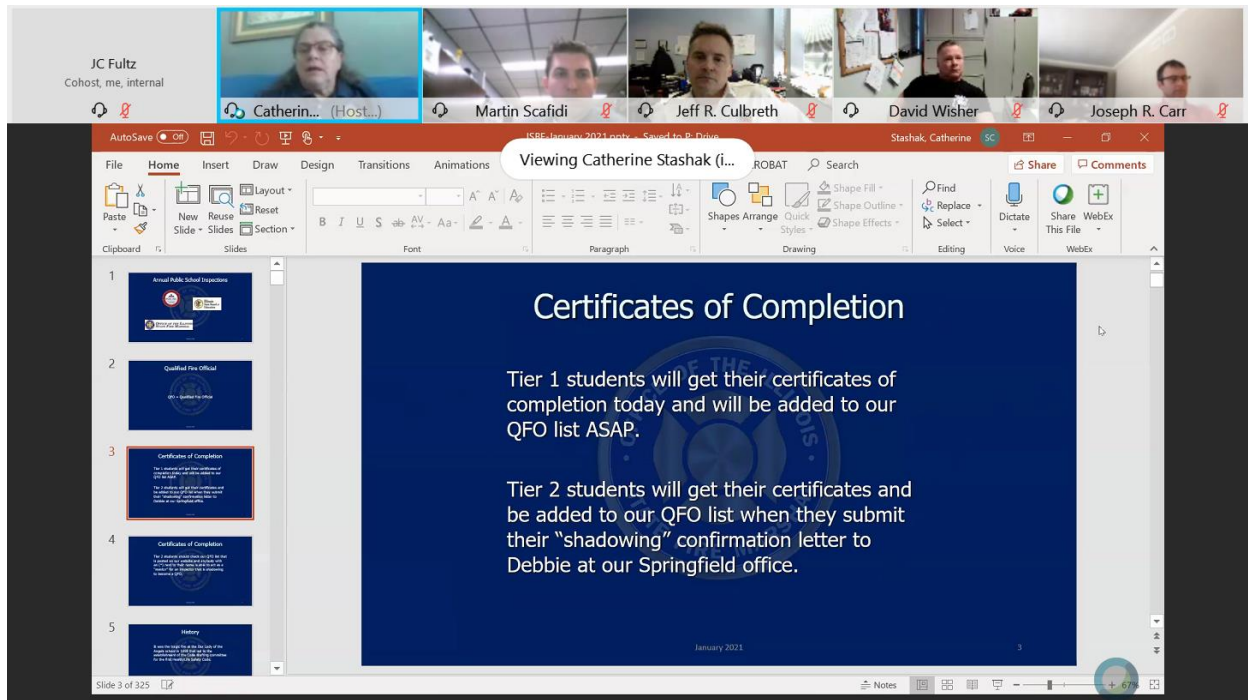


Name of Organization Goes Here

Contact Information Goes Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

**OSFM QFO Online Class**

*Due to the continuing pandemic, the OSFM held an online Public School Inspector Class. OSFM's Technical Services Cathy Stashak conducted the training for several members from the fire service. Students who completed the class will be added to the OSFM's QFO list. The OSFM plans to offer more classes online in the future. Make sure to check out our website and department/districts emails for updates about more classes.*



***OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL***

## Upcoming QFO School Inspector Class



# OSFM

## PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTION CLASS

### WHEN

**April 6, 2021**

**8:30 am to 12:00 pm**

**Class size restricted to first 20 individuals that register**

### WHERE

**OSFM WebEx video chat platform**

**Requirements: Computer used by student must be equipped with a camera, camera is to be turned on during class to provide live video feed to the instructor to confirm attendance during the entire class.**

### Additional Information

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/About/Divisions/Fire-Prevention-and-Building-Safety/Pages/Public-School-Inspection-Program.aspx>

## BECOME A QUALIFIED PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTOR

**COST: FREE**

### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

**(any one of the following)**

OSFM Fire Officer I, II  
OSFM Company Fire Officer  
OSFM Advanced Fire Officer  
OSFM Fire Prevention Officer  
OSFM Basic Fire Prevention Officer  
OSFM Advanced Fire Prevention Officer  
NFPA/ICC/OSFM Fire Inspector I  
[See link for Info on Tier 2 Program](#)

### REGISTER

Send the following info to

[Kensie.Proctor@illinois.gov](mailto:Kensie.Proctor@illinois.gov)

- your name,
- your department name,
- a copy of your qualifying certificate
- signed letter from Chief
- a list of public schools (with addresses) in your district

### QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER?

[Kensie.Proctor@illinois.gov](mailto:Kensie.Proctor@illinois.gov)

or 217-785-4714 or 217-606-9808



## Kudos/Shout Outs



*Fire Marshal Perez along with members of the Illinois Fire Service congratulated Bourbonnais Fire Chief Ed St. Louis on his retirement. Chief St. Louis served 42 years in the fire service. Thanks, Chief, for your dedication to the fire service and enjoy your much-deserved retirement.*



*Members from the Forrest Strong Wing Township Fire Department are showing off the new gear they purchased thanks to our Small Equipment Grant Program.*

*Share your photos of equipment you have purchased from the Small Equipment Grant Program with us.*



@IllinoisStateFireMarshal



@ILFireMarshal



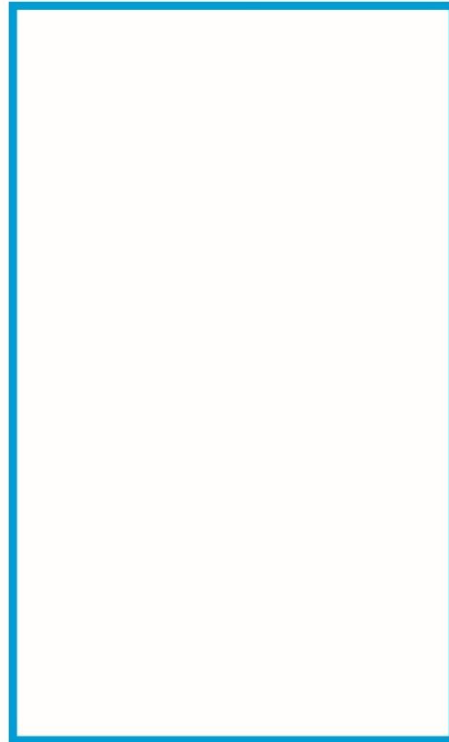
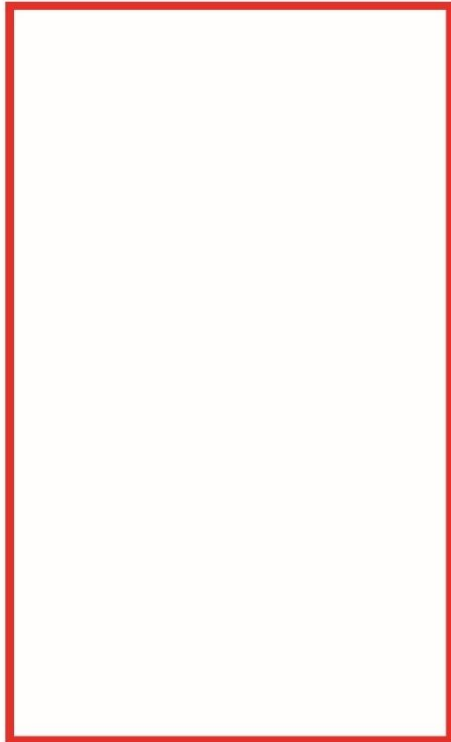
Illinois State Fire Marshal

## Kids' Corner

# SORTING

HOT

NOT HOT



CHECK OUT **SPARKY.ORG** FOR MORE FUN!

THE NAME AND IMAGE OF SPARKY ARE TRADEMARKS OF THE NFPA.